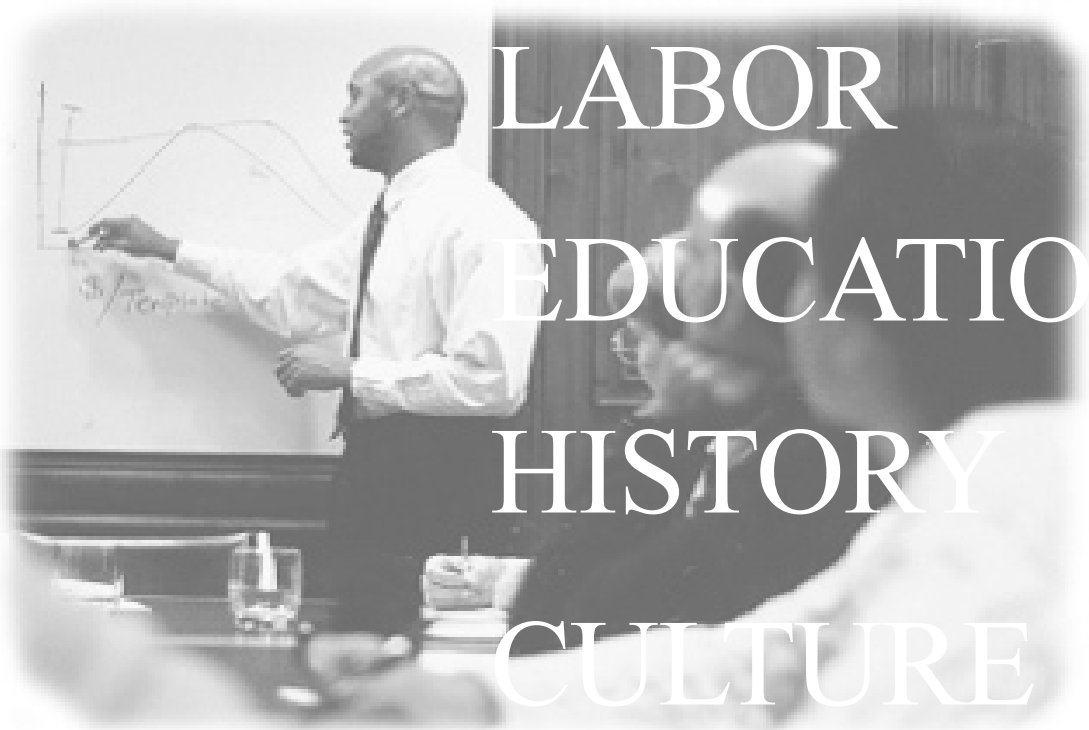


TENSAS



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



**TENSAS
PARISH**

Tensas Parish

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Billie J. Strickland,
Regional Administrator
Northeast Regional
Office
2913 Betin St.
Monroe, LA 71201

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 6118
Monroe, LA 71211-6118
318-362-5211
318-362-3163 fax

History¹

Established on March 17, 1843, Tensas Parish takes its name from the Tensas Indians who originally occupied that territory. LaSalle, the famous explorer who came down the river in 1682, mentions a large and powerful tribe of Indians called the "Taensas."

Culture and Recreation³

Winter Quarters, the oldest house in the parish, dating from 1803, is filled with antique furnishings and Civil War memorabilia. The Tensas Parish Library and the Plantation Museum, situated in a townhouse dating from 1858, also contain items related to early plantation life.



Parish Seat¹ St. Joseph¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²
None

Parish Population²

1990	7,103
1997 (estimate)	6,733
Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates) ⁶	
White	44%
African American	55%
Other	0%
Male	4%
Female	54%
Population age 0-4	8%
Populations age 65 & over	17%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	79 ft.
Land area in square miles	602.5
Water area in square miles ⁴	38.7

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	68°
January	52°
July	82°
Annual average rainfall	59 in.

**Labor Force (1995)¹**

Civilian	3,130
Employed	2,830
Unemployed	300
Unemployment	9.5%

Agriculture¹

Cotton and soybeans; saw mill and cotton gins.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

None

Public Libraries⁵ 1

References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- ⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	8.8%
High school graduate or higher	58.1%
Some college or higher	26.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11.7%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²**Private Employers**

Panola Company, Ltd. (Hot Sauce)	42
Texas Road Gin (Cotton Gin)	40*
Producers Gin of Waterproof (Cotton Gin)	32*

*Seasonal

Public Employers

Tensas Parish School Board (Education)	239
Tensas Parish Police Jury (Government)	35

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	39.0%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	53.9%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$17,340

**Region 1**

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington